



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
4:00pm, Thursday, June 13, 2024
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC
and broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Present: Sandra Brotherton, Mary Pringle, Todd Murphy, Laura Lovins, Lucia Spiotta, Belvin Olasov

Absent: Doug Hatler, Dane Buckout, Council Member Miars

Staff Present: Director Kerr, Zoning Administrator Simms

2. Citizen's Comments -- none

3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Dr. Brotherton noted a date needing to be amended on the last page.

MOTION: Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2024 meeting as amended, and Ms. Lovins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentation – none

5. Old Business

A. Wildlife

Ms. Pringle said the native plant garden is doing well. The QR code for the garden is on display and works. She said the purple martin gourds are full. There are 25 turtle nests so far this season with over 3100 loggerhead eggs.

B. Litter

Dr. Brotherton noted a noticeable amount of large beach items littering the beach near the trashcans. Director Kerr said the contractor who emptied the yellow beach trashcans and picked up the large left behind items passed away recently, and his son is taking over the emptying of the trashcans. The previous contractor picked up the larger items even though it was not part of the contract. The City is working with the son to see if he can pick up the larger items.

Dr. Brotherton stated that she and Ms. Smith will need to visit the Harris Teeter management as it has changed recently and is unaware of the conversations they previously had about not purchasing low-quality body boards to sell in the store.

C. Water Quality

i. An update on potential water quality testing program

Discussion about the water quality testing program centered around the accuracy of the labor costs on the proposal. Director Kerr said City Council authorized the expenditure, but if the labor costs adjust the proposal more than \$10,000, it will need to go back to City Council for approval.

ii. Discussion of Folly Beach septic ordinance

Ms. Lovins stated that she met with Ryne Phillips of Seamon Whiteside about funding for sewer infrastructure. She would like to have a meeting with Mr. Phillips, Mayor Pounds, and Chris Jordan of the Water & Sewer Commission to discuss how to move forward with securing funding from the USDA Water & Waste Disposal Grant Program. Director Kerr said the Water & Sewer Commission is the entity responsible for the sewer infrastructure and the City cannot pursue grant funding on their behalf. She said she will continue these efforts offline.

D. Climate Action

i. Discussion of Charleston County Climate Action Plan

Mr. Olasov said Charleston County will vote on its Climate Action Plan at their July 23 meeting and would like to have the City Council pass a resolution in support of that. Mr. Murphy stated he has not had time to read through the lengthy document and would like more time to review it before voting on such a recommendation.

MOTION: Mr. Olasov made a motion to recommend to City Council the passage of a resolution in support of the Charleston County Climate Action Plan. Ms. Lovins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously except for Mr. Murphy who abstained from voting.

ii. Update on bill H.5118 regarding upcoming natural gas project

Mr. Olasov believes this bill as originally presented will not be moving forward.

6. New Business

A. Discussion of which issues to include on the website

Committee member discussed the many items that could be included on the City's website with regards to environmental efforts around the island as well as those initiatives championed by the Committee since its inception. Committee members are to share pictures and information in bullet point format they would like to see on the website at the next meeting. Dr. Brotherton will work with the PR Officer to create a draft of the webpage to bring back to the Committee for further discussion.

B. Discussion of EAC hosting a table at the upcoming IOP Farmers Market

Ms. Lovins said the Committee has secured a table (at no charge) at the IOP Farmers Market next week. She shared some general information about septic tank health she intends to have at the table. Mr. Olasov suggested having the home compost bins on the table as well. Ms. Pringle will provide information about shorebirds.

C. Discussion of installing compost liner dispensers at compost drop-off locations

Ms. Lovins shared the costs of compost liner dispensers and the dispenser with the Committee. Smart Recycling suggested having the dispenser at the compost drop-off locations so that participants can take a new liner for their bin upon disposing of the old one. Director Kerr said the cost of the bags and dispenser is not an issue, but the City does not have additional manpower to put those out and replace as needed. Ms. Lovins will ask Smart Recycling if that is something they can add to the scope of their work and if there are any additional costs.

6. Miscellaneous Business

7. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 4pm.

Ms. Pringle made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk